

Striped Skunks



- The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provides advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not provide nuisance skunk control
 - DO NOT FEED SKUNKS! Keep all pet food and water inside!
 - Keep garbage can lids secured.
 - Keep compost piles covered (never include bones or animal fat).
 - Do not feed feral cats.
 - Secure domestic birds in sturdy enclosures.
 - Seal holes in structures to eliminate potential shelter.
 - Eliminate debris such as wood piles that may serve as shelter.
 - You may live trap and relocate skunks without a permit. (Title 76)

Biological Information

Distribution: throughout entire continental U.S., Canada, and northern Mexico

Habitat: brushy fields, farmland, open woods, deserts, and suburbs, usually not far from water.

Appearance: roughly the size of a house cat with stocky build; striking color pattern most commonly black with broad white stripes down the back; Triangular head with beady, black eyes and short, rounded ears; usually 6-14 lbs.

Reproduction: mating occurs in late winter; the gestation period is between 60 and 70 days; litters are most often comprised of 4-7 young; young remain with the mother until the fall

Food habits: rats, mice, insects, frogs, salamanders, crayfish, bees, eggs, and occasionally plants matter and poultry

Habits: mainly nocturnal; usually solitary; dens in hollow logs, burrows, under buildings, or rock piles; When threatened skunks sometimes spray an odorous liquid from scent gland near the anus. They will arch their backs, lift their tail, or stamp their feet prior to spraying.

Controls: often preyed upon by owls, coyote, bobcats, foxes, and dogs; suffer heavy mortality by being struck by cars

Values: plays a significant role in the control of rodent and insect populations



Live Trapping Skunks



- Food items such as canned cat food or peanut butter serve as effective bait for skunks.
- Cover the trap with canvas to create a secure feeling and reduce the risk of spraying.
- Use a long string to open the door when releasing a skunk.
- Approach a trapped skunk quietly and calmly so as not to alarm it.
- Release skunks at least 10 miles away from your home in an unpopulated area.
- Skunks are a known rabies vector species. If a bite occurs DO NOT release the animal. Contact the state public health veterinarian for information on testing.